McFadden hangs up cleats
Former Arkansas, NFL star retires after 10-year career. – Sports, 1C

All in a night's work
Sourdough pancakes, biscuits are secret weapons for holiday guests. – Style, 1E

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In the news

■ **Johnny Bobbitt Jr.**, a Philadelphia homeless man, will receive more than $385,000, enough money to buy him a home and a pickup as well as provide a small annual income, raised through an online campaign by a New Jersey woman he helped when she was stranded on the side of a road.

■ **Randy Bryce**, 52, a Democrat who is challenging House Speaker Paul Ryan for his Wisconsin seat, paid $4,425 to satisfy a 2004 court order requiring him to pay off the balance of a 15-year-old loan after he was questioned about the debt by a reporter.

■ **Justin Wyman**, an avid Maine deer hunter, spotted a struggling six-point buck that had fallen through the ice on Flagstaff Lake near Eustis and offered his boat to game wardens so they could get to it, place a rope around the buck's antlers and pull it to safety.

■ **Eric Mays**, a councilman in Flint, Mich., who pleaded no contest to charges he pawned his city-owned laptop nine times over two years for $100 loans, was fined $300 and ordered to serve a week on a county work detail.

■ **Lee Ming-che**, 42, a Taiwanese activist, was sentenced by a court in Yueyan City, China, to five years in prison after being convicted of subversion for holding online political lectures and helping the families of jailed Chinese dissidents.

■ **Kasey Anderson**, a School Board member in Grundy County, Tenn., was charged with making a false report after investigators accused her of sending a false text message about a student threatening to take a gun to school, causing the entire school system to go on lockdown.

■ **Austin Medlock**, a teenager, used the Heimlich maneuver to clear the airway of a middle-school girl in Wentzville, Mo., who began choking on a quarter that went into her mouth when someone tossed it at her on a school bus, allowing her to breathe until it could be removed.

■ **Arthur Lewis**, police chief of Ferriday, La., filed a lawsuit seeking damages and a restraining order against Mayor Sherrie Jacobs, accusing her of micromanaging the Police Department and interfering with the chief's duties.

■ **Samantha Cox**, 24, an English teacher from Cedar Lake, Ind., was charged with possessing cocaine and drug paraphernalia after several high school students secretly filmed her snorting a white powder between classes and gave the grainy video to school administrators, prosecutors said.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Mild, chance of showers and thunderstorms.
High 66, light southeast winds.
Tonight A few showers.
Low 52.

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The New York Times/DOUG MILLS

President Donald Trump sits in a White House meeting Tuesday beside empty seats that had been reserved for House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer.

Funding-bill talks skipped by Democrats

Schumer, Pelosi cite tweet; tax bill advances in Senate

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Congress' top Democrats backed out of a scheduled meeting with President Donald Trump on Tuesday after he attacked them on Twitter, casting doubt on the prospects for a quick agreement to avert a government shutdown at the end of next week.

Also Tuesday, Republicans advanced their signature tax overhaul through the Senate Budget Committee.

But the most crucial impending deadline concerns legislation that would keep the government open and that, because of add-ons to the measure, would likely settle complex issues regarding immigration and health care.

Failure to act in the com-

See **SHUTDOWN**, Page 7A

AP/ALEX BRANDON

Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, responding to a Twitter remark by President Donald Trump, fired back, tweeting, "It's time to stop tweeting and start leading."

174 million shop in 5-day splurge

Cyber Monday sets record; in-store sales holding steady

ROBBIE NEISWANGER
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The biggest shopping weekend of the year produced better-than-expected results as consumers wandered through stores and surfed online shelves in search of Christmas deals.

An estimated 174 million Americans shopped over the five-day span between Thanksgiving Day and Cyber Monday, according to a survey released by the National Retail Federation and Proper Insights and Analytics. The turnout topped the retail trade group's earlier projections that about 164 million Americans would shop over the five-day period.

Matthew Shay, president of the National Retail Federation, said he believes consumer confidence, a strong economy and favorable weather all played a role in the weekend results released Tuesday. So, too, did the efforts retailers have made to

See **SHOPPING**, Page 2A

Soothing words for Europe

AP/SAIT SERKAN GURBUZ

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson sought to reassure European allies in a speech Tuesday at the Wilson Center, a Washington think tank, saying: "Our security relationships with Europe are ironclad." Tillerson, who will visit several European capitals next week, also called NATO's mutual defense obligation "the best mechanism we have to deter aggression." *Article, 3A*

N. Korea missile flies high and far

'Will handle' it, Trump declares

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile early today for the first time in four months, defying President Donald Trump's warnings to halt its weapons program.

The North later said in a newscast that the missile was a new type of ICBM, the Hwasong-15, a "significantly more" powerful one than the long-range weapon the nation had previously tested.

It also said the missile can reach all of the U.S. mainland, a claim that experts said was likely true but tempered by the fact that a lightweight payload could have expanded the missile's range.

Trump's immediate reaction to the launch was more muted than in the past, when he lobbed insults at the North's leader, Kim Jong Un, and threatened "fire and fury" that would "totally destroy" the North.

"We will take care of it," he told reporters in Washington. "It is a situation that we will handle."

The missile took off from around Pyongsong, a town northeast of Pyongyang, the capital, at 3:17 a.m. and flew east for about 53 minutes before landing off the north of Honshu, Japan's largest island, nearly 600 miles from the launch site.

The missile was fired high into the air, reaching a maximum altitude of about 2,800 miles, in an arc similar to the North's two previous intercontinental ballistic missiles, which were launched in July. The missile was the first since the North fired an intermediate-range missile over Japan on Sept. 15.

The distance traveled appeared to be significantly greater than that of the two previous ICBMs, which

See **MISSILE**, Page 7A

Judge clears way for Trump pick for bureau

Decision not to block president's choice settles agency leadership stalemate

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump scored a victory Tuesday when a federal judge refused to block the president's choice to temporarily run the nation's top consumer financial watchdog and, for the moment, ended a two-way battle for leadership of the agency.

Judge Timothy Kelly declined to stop the president from putting Mick Mulvaney in place as the acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. In doing so, Kelly ruled against Leandra English, the bureau's deputy director, who had requested an emergency restraining order to stop Mulvaney from becoming the acting director.

Both Mulvaney and English claimed to be the rightful acting director, with each citing different federal laws. The leadership crisis developed over the weekend after the bureau's director, Richard Cordray, resigned and appointed English as his successor. Shortly afterward, the White House announced that Mulvaney, currently budget director, would take over the bureau on an interim basis.

The judge's ruling Tuesday is not the final decision in the case. But in making his decision, the judge said English had not shown a substantial likelihood that she eventually would succeed on the merits of her case. The judge's decision is not immediately appealable.

Kelly was nominated by

See **AGENCY**, Page 2A

$30M pact for tarps nets island none

TAMI ABDOLLAH AND MICHAEL BIESECKER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — After Hurricane Maria damaged tens of thousands of homes in Puerto Rico, a newly created Florida company with an unproven record won more than $30 million in contracts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide emergency tarps and plastic sheeting for repairs.

Bronze Star LLC never delivered those urgently needed supplies, which even months later remain in demand by hurricane victims on the island.

FEMA eventually ter-

See **TARPS**, Page 4A

More chaos in Kenya

AP/BEN CURTIS

Kenyan police clash with supporters of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta who tried to storm the gates Tuesday at a stadium in Nairobi to get to his inauguration ceremonies. As Kenyatta vowed to unite the country after months of election turmoil, a peaceful gathering of opposition supporters was broken up by police, with at least three people, including a child, dying in the melee. *Article, 4A*